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ABSTRACT

Because state legislatures (prime agents in American representative democracy) greatly influence education, attention should be given to the types of statutes being passed in the various states. This project investigates education statutes passed by state legislatures in 1985 and 1986, with some consideration of 1984 and pending 1987 legislation. Research stressed enactments affecting students, teachers, and other school personnel; school district mandates; and programs mandated or supported by state assemblies. The study covered public schools, with lttle consideration given to budget, higher education, or administration. Governors of all states were asked to furnish a summary of recent and pending legislation. Replies were received from 34 states. The information was organized and analyzed to determine current educational trends. Findings showed much specific legislation in the following areas: the amount of time spent in school, health and safety, the handicapped, the gifted and talented, the curriculum, vocational education, early childhood education, media and textbooks, religion, teachers, and students. Studying the laws passed in each area delineates society's interest in the educational system existing within each state. Included are 10 tables. (MLH)

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A Report of State Legislative Acts on Education 1985-87

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ABSTRACT

A Report of State Legislative Acts on Education 1985-7

A survey was conducted of all the state legislatures to determine the type of educational acts which have been passed since 1985. The information provided by the states has been organized and analyzed to determine certain trends currently prevalent in our country's educational system. Our findings indicate the states are passing a great deal of specific legislation in the following areas: (1) the amount of time spent in school, (2) health and safety, (3) the handicapped, (4) gifted and talented, (5) the curriculum, (6) vocational education, (7) early childhood education, (8) media and textbooks, (9) religion, (10) teachers, and (11) students. A study of the laws passed in each of these areas gives a clear picture of the interest of society toward the educational system existing within its state.

Henry Steel Commager has given schools a great deal of the credit for making democracy work in the United States.1 Conversely, the legislatures, the prime agents in American representative democracy, have much effect on education. In fact, because legislatures possess the major share of the reserved powers of the states, they are restricted only by the actions of the national government and the state constitutions.2

Need for study. It is because of this extensive influence upon education of the state legislatures that attention should be given to the types of statutes being passed in the various states. This focus should provide some light on the trends in educational policy and the extent such policy is being established in specific states.

Few clearinghouses exist in the United States for assembling the actions of the state legislatures. Collection of the acts of state assemblies will provide a needed resource in investigating legislative policy.

Scope of study. This project is an investigation into the education statutes passed by state legislatures in 1985 and 1986, with some attention to 1984 and pending 1987 legislation. Thirty-four of the fifty states are involved.

The emphasis of research is upon enactments which affect students, teachers and other school personnel, school district mandates, and programs being required or supported by the state assemblies. Public schools through the senior high level are the subject of the investigation. Little attention is given to budget, higher education, or administration.

1"Our Schools Have Kept Us Free," Life, October 16, 1950, pp. 46-47.

2Russell W. Maddox and Robert F. Fuquay, State and Local Government (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1981), p. 91.

The study related to statutes of the legislatures, although some resolutions are included. Resolutions often relate to studies which in turn indicate the future direction of the legislative intent.

Procedure. A request was made to the governors of all states to furnish a summary of the education legislation passed in the 1985 and 1986 sessions, along with the anticipated bills to be introduced in 1987. Replies were received from thirty-four states in varying formats from numerous state officials.

Some replies were much more extensive and descriptive than others. Some amounted to little more than lists of statutes. Persons making the replies included governors' assistants, education department personnel, clerks of legislatures, and legislative committee staff.

The various statutes were listed and the states adopting each were indicated. Statutes with similar subject matter were grouped together. The number of statutes selected in this manner was 154. From this assembly the scope of legislative enactment in 1985 and 1986 could be determined. This scope of enactment is the subject of the next section.

The statutes were further combined into major issues which received much attention by the legislatures in the two-year period 1985-86. From this compilation was determined the prime topics of legislative policy-making in the mid-80's. These major issues form a further section of this report.

In order to make the most of this research a comparison between the years of this study and a future biennium will be necessary. Since much educational policy is found in statute, trends in public primary and secondary education in this country will be documented by an on-going comparative study.

Table 1

States Participating in the Study

Arizona	Maine	Oregon
Arkansas	Maryland	Pennsylvania
California	Massachusetts	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Minnesota	Tennessee
Georgia	Mississippi	Texas
Hawaii	Missouri	Utah
Idaho	Nebraska	Vermont
Indiana	New Hampshire	Virginia
Iowa	New York	Washington
Kansas	North Carolina	West Virginia
Kentucky	North Dakota	Wisconsin
		Wyoming

Amount of time in school

The amount of time which a student spends in schools was the subject of numerous bills in the mid-1980's. Compulsory attendance legislation was passed in seven states: Wyoming, Georgia, Texas, Maryland, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, and North Carolina. The main thrust of these laws was to either raise or lower the attendance age.

Statutes related to the length of the school year were passed in Wyoming, Washington, Minnesota, and California. Usually the emphasis is upon lengthening the year for students. In Minnesota this additional time may be gained by adding summer programs giving credits for graduation requirements or academic enrichment.

California will permit the Los Angeles area to experiment with year-round schools. That state will also provide financial help toward air conditioning and insulation in year-round schools.

The year is not always lengthened, however. Washington state private schools need not meet for the required 180 days so long as they meet for the same number of hours as the public schools. Wisconsin also dealt with the

number of hours of direct student instruction.

The length of the school day was determined to be no longer than seven and one-half hours in the state of Missouri. A school district may count up to seven hours per day instead of six to achieve the nine hundred required hours for the year. Virginia passed a resolution to study the seven period school day.

The date for the opening of school is established by law in some states. These states include most recently Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Iowa, and Virginia. In the first three former states mentioned, school may not begin before September 1.

Virginia has adopted a two-year experiment of opening school after Labor Day in order to permit students to work over that holiday. Opponents of the change are concerned with the need to add days to the end of school, especially in areas with numerous absences for snow. The state may grant exceptions in the case of hardships to school districts.

Students may be released from attending school entirely in states with provisions for instruction at home. Home school regulations were passed in Maryland and Arkansas.

Holidays, particularly Martin Luther King Day, were the subject of legislation in some states. Washington requires that sixty minutes of instruction relevant to the purposes of Veterans' Day be observed on that holiday.

Non-excused absences were mentioned in Texas legislation. Specifically, the law provides for a statewide policy regulating unexcused absences.

Table 2

Amount of Time in School

Topics of Legislation	States					
1. Specified date for opening of of school	Ga	Tx	Miss	Va	Iowa	
2. Schedule a specified number of hours for student instruction	Wis					
3. Length of school day	Mo	Ca				
4. Length of school year	Wy	Ind	Ca			
5. Study seven-period school day	Va					
6. Adjustment to compulsory attendance law	Ky	Ga	Tx	Mo	Ark	Id

Health and Safety

Matters of health and safety occupied a considerable amount of the legislators' time in the mid-1980's. This is not surprising when one reflects upon the advances in health and the problems exposed concerning abuse of children by others and the self-abuse practices related to substances harmful to the body.

Health. Child abuse prevention measures were taken in Virginia and California, while planning and assisting children at risk were subjects of Wisconsin and Virginia bills. Missing children programs were established in Connecticut and New Hampshire. Substance abuse concerns included to... :o abuse prevention in Minnesota and the requirement that educators report drug abuse to the authorities in Utah. A three-year pilot program in substance abuse was established in California based on positive role models, using professional athletes.

Teen-age pregnancy was a major topic of discussion. A study of the subject was mandated in Virginia. A prevention program was enacted in Connecticut. Rhode Island developed a seminar to consider sexual abuse.

Specific health needs continued to plague various states. California

provided for a pilot study of hyperactivity as it affects juvenile delinquency. The same state also established a scoliosis screening program and a task force to study infectious diseases.

Students with infectious diseases could be excluded from the classroom in Idaho. Those without a health assessment could be similarly excluded in Connecticut. Rhode Island provided for blood pressure and health testing.

Asbestos continued to be a dangerous and expensive problem for the schools. Inspection and removal of asbestos was the subject of bills in Virginia, California, and Massachusetts.

Safety. School buses occupied a large portion of the legislators' output on the subject of safety. Seatbelts were required on Maryland buses. Courses of training for school bus drivers were established in California. Driving law infractions of these drivers in Virginia are to be reported by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Education and then to the school division.

Rhode Island and Tennessee required the removal of toxic substances from art supplies. A safety partnership was established between the schools and the attorney general in California.

Plans to remedy the problems of status offenders were developed in Connecticut and Maine. Status offenses are those offenses committed by juveniles. The infractions would not be punishable if done by adults. The actions include running away from home, being incorrigible, and being truant from school. Colorado and California passed laws designed to reduce the rate of school dropouts.

Table 3

Health and Safety

Topics of Legislation	States										
1. Laws related to controlled substances	Ut	Ar	RI	Ar	NC	Pa	Ca	Cn	Me	Ka	Ma
2. School health education projects	NY	Md									
3. Blood pressure and health test	RI										
4. Removal of toxic chemicals from art supplies	RI	Tn									
5. Seminars on sexual abuse	RI										
6. Exclusion of students with contagious diseases from school	Id										
7. Asbestos inspection and removal	Va	Ca	Ma								
8. Study health needs of teenagers	Va										
9. Study infectious diseases	Id										
10. Remedy runaway and incorrigible children	Cn										
11. New motorcycle safety act	Nb										
12. Supplies containing toxins are prohibited from purchase and use in grades k-6	Tn										
13. Child sexual abuse law	Tn	WV									
14. Prohibits sale of jimson on school property	Tn										

Handicapped

A number of states made provisions for youngsters who have difficulty in learning. Programs of action, more money, and study of alternatives in learning difficulties were adopted in Utah, New York, Arizona, Nevada, Indiana, Iowa, Oregon, California, Maine, and New Hampshire. Standards are to be set by the state of Oregon for special education and innovative programs are advocated in California.

Early intervention to identify developmental deficiencies in students four to seven years of age are planned in California. Compensatory basic skills .np programs are slated for Rhode Island, and alternative education programs are

scheduled for Texas and Minnesota. A remedial education plan is to be adopted in Iowa. California has provided for a plan to increase nonhandicapped children's awareness of the problems of handicapped children.

Virginia has established an interagency coordinating council to develop a strategy for the vocational and educational needs of handicapped children. In Tennessee the IEP of a handicapped child must include career vocational opportunities, unless an explanation to the contrary is written. Kansas is providing for an education advocate for the handicapped child. The special education hearing process is being improved in North Carolina, and suspension and expulsion rules for special education youngsters are being clarified in California.

Table 4

Handicapped

Topics of Legislation	States							
1. Handicap education laws	Ut	NY	Ar	ND	Ind	Iowa	Or	Ca
2. Plan to meet needs of learning disabled children	Me	NH	Iowa					
3. Inform non-handicapped children of problems of handicapped	Ca							
4. Innovative special education programs	Ca							
5. State pays over certain amount for special education children in special facilities	Mn							
6. State subsidy for special education programs	Me							
7. IEP of handicapped child must include career vocational opportunities, except when written explanation to the contrary is included in IEP	Tenn							

Gifted and talented programs

States which improved or adopted gifted and talented programs included Wisconsin, Wyoming, Arkansas, Colorado, Rhode Isalnd, Maine, and Minnesota.

Maine required these programs in all school districts by 1991-92.

Specific programs for the better students included the Academic Programs of Excellence in [illegible] and the Voluntary Honors Award Program to recognize outstanding academic achievement in the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign languages in Washington.

Table 5

Gifted and Talented

Topics of Legislation	States							
1. Development of gifted and talented program	Wis	Wy	Ar	Col	RI	Ind	Me	Mn
2. Arts in education program	NY							
3. Higher education scholarship for superior achieving students	Md							

Curriculum

The states of Wisconsin, Iowa, and California required the development of a sequential curriculum in specified subject areas. California was especially active in requiring a year of government and a semester of economics for high school graduation and mandating improved international studies. It has also required a study of the need to increase the quality of mathematics and science in schools. Minnesota established a School of the Arts and Resource Center to improve arts education in K-12 schools.

A career guidance model for science and technology in grades seven to twelve was established in California while at the same time supervision of math, science, and engineering in the public schools was transferred to a state university. California also required a model energy program and adult education structuring, including adult and vocational education for persons on welfare. Indiana likwise legislated in the area of adult education, New York provided for an Arts in Education program, and New York and Maryland developed school health education projects.

Table 6

Curriculum

Topics of Legislation	States		
1. Development of sequential curriculum plan in specified subject areas	Wis	Iowa	Ca
2. Writing program	Ky		
3. Reading program	Mn		
4. Alternative Education Programs	Tx	Mn	
5. Academic programs of excellence	Mn	NH	
6. Model energy education program	Ca		
7. Model learner expectations	Mn		
8. Improve international studies	Ca		
9. Bilingual programs	Tx	Ka	Wa
10. Missing children programs	Cn	NH	
11. Planning, evaluation, and reporting process	Mn		
	Mn		
12. Standards of Quality	Va		
13. Math, science, and engineering programs to state university	Ca		
14. Character education program	Tenn		
15. Model programs on family life education	Tenn		

Language

Since communication is so important in education, effectiveness on the job, and enjoyment of life, it is not surprising that the states set some requirements for English, foreign languages, reading and writing.

While bilingual programs were provided in Texas and English was to be taught as a second language for persons on welfare in California, English was adopted as the official language for the schools of Virginia. New York established immersion institutes. Sign language will now satisfy a foreign language requirement in Maine.

Writing and reading programs received support in the states of Kentucky and Maine, respectively.

Vocational education

In dealing with vocational education North Carolina provided for an approved state plan, and Arkansas established high school vocational education centers. School districts may offer up to four credits in vocational education in any school year in Minnesota. Wisconsin developed an education for employment program.

Early childhood education

Some studies show that children learn more at an earlier age than was formerly believed possible. This phenomenon is expressed legislatively in the provision for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten education.

Arkansas, Rhode Island, and Iowa provided that all schools are to have kindergarten. A full day of kindergarten is required in Georgia. Kindergartners and new first grade students may be fingerprinted in California. New kindergarten resource centers have been established in Vermont.

Four-year-old pre-kindergartens were set up in Texas and Maryland. Accreditation of pre-schools on a voluntary basis was approved in Washington.

Day care activities in the schools before and after school were approved in North Carolina and Iowa. Similar day care facilities were authorized for children of public school students who are parents in Connecticut. Connecticut expanded instructional television use and Maine established educational courseware integration centers. In regard to textbooks, contrary provisions for funding the purchase of textbooks were enacted. Nebraska dropped the requirement of providing texts to private school students, while Iowa authorized aid to nonpublic school students up to ten dollars a student.

Table 7

Early Childhood Education

Topics of Legislation	States		
1. Full day kindergarten required	Ga		
2. Four year old pre-kindergarten program	Tx	Md	
3. Day care activities before and after school	Ne	Ca	Iowa
4. Day care for children of students	Ca		
5. Accreditation of pre-schools voluntary	Wa		

Media and Textbooks

Connecticut expanded instructional television use and Maine established educational courseware integration centers. In regard to textbooks, contrary provisions for funding the purchase of textbooks were enacted. Nebraska dropped the requirement of providing texts to private school students, while Iowa authorized aid to nonpublic school students up to ten dollars a student.

Religion

Absences for participation in religious practices were authorized for students in Massechusettes and for employees in California. North Carolina permitted school boards to adopt a rule of allowing the observance of a daily moment of silence in schools.

Local schools in California must be secured for religious use each time a group wishes to use school facilities. Oregon will restrict state school money from a school district that supports a religious activity.

American Citizenship

The American flag must be displayed in every classroom in Maine. In Massachusetts an Annual Youth in Government Day has been declared. English has been established as the official language in Virginia. California has required

that material be developed to impress students with the rights and duties of American citizenship and the principles of a free government.

Teachers

A great deal of legislation has been channeled toward providing some type of career ladder programs for teachers in Kentucky, Georgia, Texas, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. This is a continuation of a trend which started in other states a few years ago. This program is meant to provide some incentives, job stability, and ranking of teachers in regard to their competencies.

Several states, including Kentucky, Georgia, Arizona, and California, are requiring teacher assessment programs. The school systems are required to develop and implement plans to assess the qualifications of their teachers through observation of actual teaching during the school year. Maine has initiated a program to provide medals for evaluating teachers.

Beginning teachers are required to take a competency test in a number of states. In addition, the states of Kentucky and Utah require a one year internship before a teaching certificate is awarded. Texas and California are requiring a probationary period for teachers.

Colorado has passed a law which requires that an assessment of student performance be used to determine the quality of teacher and administrative preparatory programs. This is a very interesting law as it could be the beginning of linking teacher competency with student performance. The ramifications of this could have far reaching implications.

Currently the nation is facing a teacher shortage in some areas. The states of Indiana, Virginia, Iowa, and Hawaii have passed legislation aimed at developing programs which will help ease this problem. There is a tendency for the programs to be directed at re-training teachers in areas where there is an oversupply to fill slots where there is a shortage.

Table 8

Teachers

Topics of Legislation	States				
1. Changes in teacher education	Neb				
2. Computer course necessary for certification	CA				
3. Pay increases	Ky	Ga	Tx		
4. Career ladder	Ky	Ga	Tx	Ut	Ar
5. Amount of time each teacher must teach per day	Tx				
6. Certification of non-teacher education graduates	Ga	Tx			
7. All teachers required to take a competency test	Ga	Ark			
8. Only beginning teachers required to take a competency test	Ind	Ia			
9. Competency test for admission to teacher preparation program	Conn				
10. New and beginning teacher required to take a competency test	Ky	Mt			
11. Teacher assessment program	Ky	Ga	Ar	Conn	
12. Qualifications for teacher aides	Ky				
13. Duty free lunch	Ky	Tenn	Neb		
14. Probation period for teachers	Tx	Ca			
15. State test for certification of teachers	NY				
16. Paid summer workshop for teachers	Ky				
17. One year internship	Ut	Ky			
18. Educators must report drug use by students to authorities	Ut				
19. Range of penalties for teachers lacking good moral character	NY				
20. Assessing quality of teaching according to student achievement	Col				
21. Confidentiality of teacher test scores	Ark				
22. Setting penalties for assault on teachers	RI				
23. Teachers must pay for certificate	Id				
24. Teacher shortage program	Ind	Va	Ia	Ha	Ca
25. Grants to retrain teachers in math and science	Ind				
26. Train persons charged with evaluation	Col				
27. Performance based salary plans	Kan				
28. Pre-employment check for serious offenses	Pa				

29. Certification of personnel psychology	Va	Kan				
30. Teacher of the year program	Me					
31. Inservice training in classroom management	Wa					
32. College tuition waver for teachers	Wa					
33. Inservice programs	Mn					
34. Excellence in teaching model teacher preparation program	Ca					
35. Models for evaluating teachers	Me					
36. Career incentive programs for teachers	Ca					
37. Excellence in teaching and curriculum program	Me					
38. Minimum standards for evaluating	Wa					
39. Teacher evaluators must have training in evaluation	Wa					
40. Two-year beginning teacher assistance program	Wa					
41. State board of education to study teacher education alternatives	Wa					
42. Teacher education plans to include training to teach handicapped and gifted	Ia					
43. Teaching certificates for pre-school teachers	Tenn					
44. Elementary guidance counselors required in grades 1 and 2	Tenn					
45. Prohibits criminal charges against a teacher who administered corporal punishment unless independent medical verification of pupil's injury is first presented to the judge	Tenn					
46. Teacher-aides provided for kindergarten	Tenn					
47. Tuition reimbursement for						

Colorado has passed a law that requires each district to train a person who is to be charged with the responsibility of evaluating certified school personnel. This should help make the process of hiring and recertifying teachers run a lot smoother.

Washington and Virginia have passed legislation which provides for a two year teacher assistance program. All beginning teachers must successfully complete the program before thay are fully certified to teach in the public schools.

Bills related to duty for lunch periods have recently been passed in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Nebraska. Georgia and Texas have passed certain regulations allowing for certification of non-teacher education graduates.

Incentive pay program has been the focus of bills in Kentucky, Colorado, and Kansas. These bills vary but their intent is the same...to improve instruction and learning performance.

Students

There are many bills that have passed the state legislatures that relate directly to public school students in a number of areas. Among those is a law in Texas that specifies structural promotion requirements. Traditionally, this has been left up to the individual school districts.

One area which is currently being discussed in many states is the "no pass, no play" issue as it relates to athletic competition and other extra-curricular activities. Texas, Arizona, and Virginia have recently passed bills to enforce regulations in line with this philosophy.

Texas has passed laws which establishes a non-excused absence policy statewide and a program to provide tutorial assistance for failing students. Indiana has increased graduation requirements for the students. This is a measure which has been taken by a large number of states over the past few years.

Several states, including New York, Iowa, and Indiana, continue to pass laws related to competencies required for graduation. Competency testing accompanied by increased emphasis on student assessment in all the grades is a result of the states trying to accurately determine the degree of student

learning. In addition, Missouri has established a higher education scholarship for superior achieving students. Many measures like these are linked with an "Excellency in Education" program being established in the various states.

One way that Wyoming and Utah have tried to recruit future teachers is to provide scholarships for students who indicate they want to enter college to become teachers. Kentucky passed a bill providing loans to prospective teachers.

Table 9

Students

Topics of Legislation	States		
1. Structural promotion requirements being emphasized	Tx		
2. Must have 2.0 average in order to participate in extra-curricular activities	Va		
3. Must pass all classes in order to participate in extra-curricular activities	Tx	Ar	
4. Non-excused absence policy	Tx		
5. Competency test required for graduation	Iowa	NY	Ind
6. Loans to perspective teachers	Ky		
7. Tutorial assistance for failing students	Tx		
8. Scholarships for perspective teachers	Wy	Utah	
9. Increased graduation requirements	Ind	Ca	
10. Assessment of student knowledge	Mn	Wa	
11. Department of Health is responsible for psychological testing of students	Ha		
12. Study teenage pregnancy	Va		
13. Program for prevention of teen-age pregnancy	Ca		
14. Permanent student member of the State Board of Education	Ca		
15. Pilot program to reduce pupil-teacher ratio	Tenn		
16. Procedures for disciplinary suspension of students	Tenn		
17. Homebound instruction for pregnant students-3 hrs. per week for 6 weeks	Tenn		

Some states have become concerned with the issue of time on task. Wisconsin, for example, has a bill that becomes effective September 1, 1988 requiring school divisions to annually schedule a specified number of hours of direct pupil instruction.

Wisconsin is also requiring that a plan for children-at-risk be developed. In addition, in this state students are to be provided with access to an education for employment program and a gifted and talented program.

Other programs and legislation

Parent education programs have been established in New York, Montana, and Washington. Provisions were made for the consolidation of schools in Idaho, while cooperation betweeen school districts was permitted in Washington and Connecticut. Pennsylvania passed a law which requires that only American vehicles can be purchased by government agencies.

Educational changes being considered by the states

The states are considering a wide range of change to be made in their school laws. One of these is the consideration by Indiana, Wyoming, Washington, and Maine to lengthen the school year. The intent is to provide the students with additional learning experience.

Indiana in particular is considering a number of changes which include: (1) evaluation of teacher performance; (2) reward system for superior teaching; (3) probationary period for teachers and administrators; (4) learning objectives at each level; (5) increase the compulsory attendance law from sixteen to seventeen years old; (6) computerizing the State Department of Education; (7) developing a principal's leadership academy; (8) developing a Governors Scholar's Academy; (9) establishing an adult literacy program; (10) placing more emphasis on foreign language; (11) increasing student assessment; (12) increased evaluation of schools; (13) provide help for latch-key, hungry, and abused

children; (14) more emphasis on school accreditation; (15) providing assistance for underachieving schools; (16) provide a plan for student retention; and (17) providing rewards for performance.

Table 10

Legislation under Consideration

Topics of Legislation	States			
1. Home schools	ND	Wa	Or	
2. Compulsory attendance law	ND	NC	Ind	
3. School bus safety program	NC	RI		
4. Adult monitors on homebound buses	RI			
5. Uniform code of behavior in all schools	RI			
6. More funds for handicapped	RI			
7. Making kindergarten mandatory	RI	Iowa		
8. Public address system on buses	RI			
9. Creating a "Best and Brightest" scholarship	RI			
10. Evaluation of teacher performance	Ind			
11. Reward system for superior teaching	Ind			
12. Probation period for teachers and administration (or evidence of achievement)	Ind			
13. Learning objectives at each level	Ind			
14. Computerize Department of Education	Ind			
15. Emphasize foreign language	Iowa	Ind		
16. Governor's Scholars Academy	Ind			
17. Adult literacy program	Ind			
18. Length of school year	Wy	Wa	Ma	Ind
19. Rewards for performance	Ind			
20. Preparation and recruitment of teachers	Ind			
21. Student retention	Ind			
22. Assistance for underachieving schools	Ind			
23. School accreditation	Ind			
24. Help for latch-key, hungry, and abused children	Ind			
	Ind			
25. Evaluation of schools	Ind			
26. Student assessment	Ind			
27. Possibly dissolving state board of education	NY			

Rhode Island and Iowa are considering making kindergarten mandatory for all students. Traditionally it has been made available for students at that age but they are not required to attend. North Dakota, Washington, and Oregon are considering issues which deal with "home schools". This includes allowing parents to teach their children at home under specific conditions identified by the State Department of Education.

North Dakota and North Carolina are examining the compulsory attendence laws in their respective states in light of making possible changes. The establishment of missing children programs is being considered in Connecticut and New Hampshire. In addition Connecticut and Maine are considering action to remedy runaway and incorrigible children problems.

The state of Maine is currently working on a planning, evaluation, and reporting process which it hopes to put into effect in the near future. Connecticut and Maine are trying to expand the use of instructional media in their schools.

Probably the most unusual change being considered is occuring in Wyoming. They are examining the idea of dissolving the State Board of Education.

Summary

The state legislatures around the country have been very active in recent years as they have examined the need to improve the educational system in their respective states. This study has examined the actions taken by thirty-four of these states who responded to our request for information over the past two years. It also includes some issues which some of the states are considering acting upon in the next session of their legislature.

The major areas the states seemed to be concerned about at this time are (1) the amount of time spent in school, (2) health and safety, the handicapped, gifted and talented, the curriculum, vocational education, early childhood

education, media and textbooks, religion, teachers, students, and other miscellaneous programs and legislation.

In the future it appears that the state legislatures are going to be very concerned with accountability on the part of both teachers and administration. Various curriculum programs will be introduced or expanded to continue "Excellence in Education" programs already developed in many of the states. Further uses of computers will be explored and implemented in the school systems.

This study has attempted to provide information on recent actions of state legislatures across the country and to provide some insights into some other imminent actions they may take in the very near future.